

PRESS RELEASE

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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS FOUR MORE DEFENDANTS IN GANG INVESTIGATION

Madison, Wisconsin --A federal jury in U.S. District Court in Madison returned guilty verdicts late last night against: (1) Pedro Zamora, DOB: 9/7/82, Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward, Wisconsin; (2) Jorge Barragan, DOB: 2/9/80, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; (3) Ernesto Estrada III, DOB: 6/28/67, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and (4) Florentino Castillo, DOB: 2/8/78, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The jury deliberated approximately five hours after a six-day trial and found all four defendants guilty of conspiring between 1999 and 2003, in connection with the Latin King Nation, to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on and around the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO). The jury also found Zamora guilty of maintaining a crack house on the Reservation for the purpose of distributing crack cocaine during the conspiracy. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled the sentencings for March 6 and 7, 2006. The defendants each face a mandatory minimum penalty of ten years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole.

Thirty-six individuals have previously been sentenced to prison as a result of this investigation. Four other individuals are presently pending sentencing: Donald

Fairbanks, (date to be set); Robert Smith, February 14, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.; Gregorio Acosta, Jr., February 14, 2006 at 1:20 p.m.; and Nick Acosta, February 17, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

The proof at the trial established that Barragan, Castillo, and Estrada began traveling to the LCO Reservation in late 1998 to sell cocaine and crack cocaine. During 1999, Estrada traveled from LCO to Milwaukee two to three times per week, with co-conspirators Spring Lasieur Acosta, and Gregorio Acosta, Jr., and obtained multiple ounces of cocaine and crack cocaine on each trip for resale at the LCO Reservation.

From the beginning of 2000 through the end of 2001, Barragan, working with co-conspirator Jacquelyn Martinson, also transported multiple ounces of cocaine and crack cocaine each week from Milwaukee to the Reservation. A portion of these drugs were sold directly to customers and a portion were provided to the Latin King gang operating at LCO. Gang members, including Pedro Zamora, John and Candace Radermacher, Tony Gouge, and Donald Fairbanks, provided money in advance to Martinson and Barragan for the purchase of drugs for resale by the gang and individual gang members.

Beginning in 2002, Castillo became the drug source for co-conspirators Rebecca Corbine and Jacqueline Martinson. From early 2002 until the summer of 2002, Corbine and Martinson made numerous weekly trips to Milwaukee and obtained multiple ounces of cocaine and crack cocaine from Castillo on each trip for resale at LCO. During the summer of 2002, Castillo resided near Hertel, Wisconsin. During that time period, Corbine made two trips to Milwaukee at Castillo's direction; on one she

returned with four ounces of crack cocaine and on the other she transported two weapons to Castillo's associate in Milwaukee. Later in 2002, at Castillo's direction, Corbine delivered two guns from co-conspirators at LCO to Castillo in Minneapolis. During the summer of 2002, co-conspirators John Radermacher and Tony Gouge also traveled with Castillo to Minneapolis and obtained 1.5 ounces of powder cocaine for resale at LCO. Finally, in early 2003, again at Castillo's direction, Corbine transported a large semi-automatic, military-type rifle to Minneapolis where she traded the gun for cocaine. After selling the cocaine, she provided the proceeds from those sales to Castillo.

During this entire time period, from 2002 through Spring 2003, Pedro Zamora was selling crack cocaine for the Latin Kings at LCO, and also selling crack cocaine for his own profit with the assistance of several co-conspirators. From April 2002 through October 2002, Zamora operated a crack house on Neezh Street on the Reservation. Customers were referred to this location and Zamora sold crack to them.

These guilty verdicts are the result of a long-term investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.

United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott praised the combined efforts of these law enforcement agencies, "The teamwork displayed by the investigative agencies in this case will stand for a long time as a shining example of all that can be achieved in combating violent drug gangs like the Latin Kings when law enforcement agencies work closely together."

The trial of this case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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